

**CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 8, 2012**  
**City Council Chambers, City Hall Annex**  
**41 Green Street, Concord, NH**

**Attendance:**

Members present at the meeting included: Jim Owers; Jan McClure; Chris Kane; Rick Chormann; Tracey Boisvert; and Rebecca Hebert, Senior Planner, also attended the meeting.

J. Owers called the meeting to order at 7:25.

**1. Minutes:**

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the January 11, 2012, meeting, and the minutes were unanimously accepted.

**2. Wetlands Bureau:**

R. Hebert reported the City has received a copy of a Wetland Routine Roadway and Railway Maintenance Activities Notification for the repair of a culvert off of Graham Road. She explained that the property owner is Donald Stever, and the Stevers are working to re-establish the agricultural use of the property. The site has been logged and they are also planning to construct a hoop house near the road. The culvert repair is on an existing logging road. The Commission reviewed the permit and commented that the culvert is located such that the stream bends at almost a 90° angle away from the culvert, to run parallel with the driveway. Culverts are usually located to be perpendicular to the stream crossing to the greatest extent possible. It was noted that the culvert is existing and they may not have been able to realign the crossing and still file the permit by notification. The Commission did not object to the permit as submitted.

R. Hebert explained that she has received a communication from Jed Merrow, a Project Manager from McFarland Johnson, regarding possible wetlands mitigation opportunities for the NHDOT Route 106 widening project. She said that they are looking for land conservation projects that might qualify as mitigation. The project would need to be located in the Soucook River watershed within reasonable distance from the proposed impact. The Commission discussed the broken ground property and the Bartlett farmstead off of Route 106. The Commission asked staff to inquire about the criteria for mitigation and how much land would need to be protected to satisfy the mitigation requirement.

**3. City Council/Planning Board Action:**

- a. City Council Referral Regarding West Locke Road** – The Commission discussed the Council referral regarding the City's management of the gates on West Locke Road. The group discussed the new ADA ruling that requires land owners to permit

Other Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD's) on their property to accommodate individuals with mobility disabilities. R. Hebert explained that she met with the Legal Department to review what the City would need to do in order to be in compliance with the new ADA rules. It was determined that the City should discontinue the road; post a notice on the website listing the properties where OPDMD's would be allowed on conservation lands; maintain a 32" opening at the gate to provide access for wheelchairs; post a sign at the gate with the City's contact information so individuals with mobility disabilities would be able to request the combination for gate; the City is not required to provide special access to the airplane club because they do not have a formal agreement or interest in the land, but the club is a good steward to the property and they also include Concord residents and members of the public and the use is not degrading to the conservation values of the property. The Commission also thought that a permit or some sort of sticker that individuals could place on their car would help regulate the use of the road and access to the gate.

- b. Budget** – R. Hebert provided an overview of the draft Conservation Commission budgets. She explained that the proposed budget is very similar to last year's with the exception of not needing money for the pruning of the downtown street trees. The Commission suggested that more money be included for the planting of street trees and also asked staff to include an estimate of the number of trees planted versus the number of trees removed. R. Hebert explained that the Forestry budget plans for a small timber sale to open up a view from the trails at Oak Hill. C. Kane said that in his opinion the commercial timber sale would have too much of an impact on the Oak Hill trail system and asked if the view could be opened up by removing a few trees with a chain saw. The group discussed the amount of money that the Commission contributes annually to the YES Team. R. Hebert explained that the group provides a "work/learn/earn" program for youth in the Concord region. The group used to be known as the "Green Team" and has transitioned from Groundwork to PlusTime NH and is now sponsored through the Boys and Girls Club. The group decided to reduce the sponsorship from \$5000 to \$2500 because some of the YES Team work has become more regional and does not just include work within the City.

#### **4. Open Space:**

R. Hebert said that an infestation of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid has been discovered on a stand of Hemlock trees located on the south side of District #5 Road. Jennifer Weimer, a Forest Health Specialist at DRED, will oversee the treatment of the infestation and will monitor the site. She said this is the northern most occurrence of the Woolly Adelgid aphid in New Hampshire.

The Commission discussed the proposed conservation easement on the agricultural land southerly of Gully Hill Road. The group commented that the easement seemed complicated and asked if staff could request a copy of the Forest Society's model easement to determine how this easement differs from the original version. R. Hebert will email a clean version of the proposed easement along with the Forest Society's model easement for members to review. The Commission decided not to submit this to the City Council for review in March.

R. Hebert reported that the Maplewood Farm project has received funding from the NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. The next step will be to have the property surveyed this spring.

R. Hebert said that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the lease of the agricultural land off of West Locke Road has been issued. There has been a lot of interest in the RFP from local and regional farmers. Proposals are due back to the City on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Commission decided to hold a special meeting to review the proposals. R. Hebert suggested including Ryan Young from the Forest Society and maybe someone from the UNH Cooperative Extension.

The group discussed the Martin property off of Stickney Hill Road. C. Kane moved to have the Martin property appraised. R. Chormann seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed.

J. Owers provided an update on discussions with the owners of the Whispering Heights Subdivision. He explained that Jeff Brem, one of the owners has been talking with William Hoag and both the owners of Whispering Heights and Hoag may be interested in selling their land to the City. C. Kane moved to have the Hoag and Whispering Heights property appraised, with the condition that the City receives a letter of permission from Mr. Hoag. R. Chormann seconded; all in favor; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Rebecca Hebert

Planner, Secretary pro-tem